



Quarter 1:
July 1-September 30
2004

A quarterly training update for local and regional Citizen Corps Councils in Utah.

New Utah Citizen Corps Website Launched

We are pleased to announce the Utah Citizen Corps Council recently launched a new website: www.citizencorps.utah.gov. While a link still exists from the www.volunteers.utah.gov site, people can gain access directly to Utah Citizen Corps information with this new URL address.

This new site makes it possible for Utah residents to access all the pertinent information about Citizen Corps efforts from one location. Individuals, families or groups can find information on how to be better prepared in the event of a disaster, how to receive training in first aid and emergency skills, and how to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety professionals.

Links to the national www.citizencorps.gov site and contact information for local Citizen Corps councils throughout our state are also available on the new site. The 'Citizen Corps Links' page includes links to numerous Utah programs and affiliates as well as national Citizen Corps affiliates.

For those affiliated with a local Citizen Corps council, check the 'Citizen Corps Councils' link to find information on the Utah State Citizen Corps Council and the 2004 Grants. There are also a number of useful tools available, including the orientation training presentation for new councils, which you are welcome to use for your own training needs, as well as reporting and reimbursement forms.

We hope that this website will be a great tool for those of you who are just starting or strengthening Citizen Corps councils in your local areas.

Listed here are some groups or agencies that you might consider bringing on as partners for your Citizen Corps Council:

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Association of Government (AOG)

County Sheriffs

Business community

Communities of faith

Citizen volunteers

Public health

Public works

Veterinarians

AmeriCorps*VISTAs

County commissioners

General public

Boy and Girl Scouts

Schools

Youth groups (youth court, youth council, etc)

Amateur radio services

Higher education institutions

Search and Rescue

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Utah Citizen Corps Council, a program of the Utah Commission on Volunteers. Individuals who receive the newsletter are asked to share it with others who are interested in Citizen Corps related efforts in Utah. For more information contact Kristi at 1-888-755-UTAH or kltanner@utah.gov

Best Practices and Tips from the Field

To strengthen your Citizen Corps Council, try some of the following ideas suggested by local Citizen Corps Councils in Utah:

- It is always popular to offer some incentives or food to get people to attend events! (Beaver County)
- To make the CCC really work, establish a council where citizens play the major role, with support from the city staff. Add credibility and structure to the program by developing ordinances and bylaws for the council. Provide projects for the council to accomplish, to keep them active and involved. (Brigham City)
- Tell your story! Studies say that people will read something seven times before it makes an impression on them. Get your articles in the paper. Don't expect the media to do all the work. Chances are that if you write the article, and make sure you let the editor know that you do not mind if they edit it-you will get it printed (at least in more local media, including radio). (Central Utah Regional Citizen Corps Council)
- One of the best things we have done was getting our Mayor to the Hazardous Materials Training at the FEMA EMI. He has a very good understanding of what his role in a disaster will be and has a better understanding of how the EOC will work. (Green River)
- The Safe Midvale Committee has brainstormed ideas to improve attendance at classes/events. One idea selected was ordering reusable event signs that Area, District,

and Block Coordinators could place on their lawn several days before events. Each person will be responsible for storing them between events and the Committee will be responsible for distributing updated information about the event to each person. The event name, date, and location can be printed on a sheet of paper and placed in a clear plastic sleeve on the sign. This would provide multiple visual reminders to most of the neighborhoods in the City and notify people who are not necessarily in an organized neighborhood or did not receive flyers, etc. The event signs will be used for the first time next quarter. (Midvale City)

- Rewarding those who volunteer is very important. They have to feel important and that the job they do is appreciated. Oftentimes, the duties are not of a glorious nature, so it is important as an administrator of the program that I keep their morale up in other ways. I do this in various ways; by making sure the equipment they use is always functional, the flow of information gets all the way down to them, they receive plenty of recognition from those they work with, and they are utilized in making the program grow and improve. (Orem City)
- Don't allow too much time to elapse between presenting a program to individuals and getting them to participate in the program or training. More interest is generated in a program when you can demonstrate how the program will provide individual preparedness and increased safety. (Sanpete County)

First Quarter Statistical Information

Out of 35 total councils in Utah (33 are grantees)

- 21 councils are officially registered on national site
- 5 councils reported involvement with VIPS
- 22 councils reported involvement with CERT
- 10 councils reported involvement with NW
- 2 councils reported involvement with MRC
- 1 council reported involvement with Fire Corps
- 13 councils reported either hosting or participating in community fairs where emergency preparedness/Citizen Corps information was distributed.
- It was reported that approximately 113,660 people have received the message of Citizen Corps programs as a result of public education and outreach.

Public Education and Outreach - Good Ideas

Citizen Corps councils in Utah are doing great things to spread the Citizen Corps message. Here are some ideas for conducting public education and outreach to inform the public about their roles and responsibilities as individuals to be prepared, to be trained and to volunteer:

- Newsletters or announcements distributed through monthly utility bills

- City websites and local TV channels
- Newspaper articles
- Radio interviews
- Printing and distributing fliers
- School assemblies
- Public displays in prominent locations (i.e. the Post Office, community centers, etc.)